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LETTER DATED 20 JANUARY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SINGAPORE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On behalf of the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of the States members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers on the holding of a presidential election in Cambodia issued on 15 January 1993.

I would be grateful if you could arrange to have the present statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) CHEW Tai Soo

Annex

Statement by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers on the holding of a presidential election in Cambodia

1. We, the Foreign Ministers of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), view with deep concern the current impasse in the Cambodian peace process.

2. We are particularly concerned over the intensified military activities in violation of the cease-fire arrangements and the increasing incidents of political harassment, intimidation and even assassinations perpetrated against personalities and political workers of especially the Front uni national pour un Cambodge indépendent, neutre, pratique et coopératif (FUNCINPEC) and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), which could eventually lead to renewed large-scale fighting in Cambodia. We are also gravely concerned over the recent spate of killings of residents of Vietnamese origin. We call on all Cambodian parties to cooperate with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and to contribute to ensuring a peaceful and neutral political environment so that there can be free and fair elections as stipulated in the Paris Peace Agreements.

3. We welcome and fully support His Royal Highness Prince Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's announcement of 8 January 1993 that he is ready to be a candidate in a presidential election to be held in April or May 1993. We believe that His Royal Highness Prince Samdech Norodom Sihanouk will be able to play a pivotal role in bringing about national reconciliation among all Cambodians, which is essential if genuine and lasting peace in Cambodia is to be attained.

4. We are of the view that Cambodia needs political stability prior to and after the general elections of the members of the Constituent Assembly scheduled to be held in May 1993. An elected President would facilitate the conduct of the general elections and would also provide an anchor of stability in the period after the general elections. He would effectively serve as the unifying force of the country pending the completion of the drafting of the new Cambodian Constitution and the establishment of a new Cambodian Government. We believe that such a presidential election would help to reinforce the overall peace process and overcome the present impasse in the implementation of the Paris Peace Agreements. We therefore strongly urge all the Cambodian parties to agree to the holding of a presidential election.

5. We call on all the Cambodian parties to cooperate in the spirit of national reconciliation and to exercise self-restraint in order to prevent the situation from deteriorating any further. We also call on all the Cambodian parties to comply with their obligations under the Paris Peace Agreements. They should ensure the safety of UNTAC personnel who are performing their duties. In particular, we call on the Party of Democratic Kampuchea (Khmer Rouge) to comply fully with all its obligations under the Paris Peace Agreements.